

The Skies are Orange...Again.

Numismagram Newsletter #100 (VI/2023)



Since our last upload at the beginning of the month, smoke from ongoing Canadian wildfires spread south into the middle Atlantic region, with some rather dramatic and eerie images coming from major cities in the area. This was not a new sight for us, as we experienced very similar conditions here in California in September 2020. The image above was taken at that very time in our apartment complex, and seemed as if something from a post-apocalyptic movie. If that at all looks familiar, it is likely because you have seen (*or even experienced*) the conditions recently on the east coast. Some of those images that have been seen the most were likely those depictions of New York City under a blanket of orange...



This image depicts a view of the Queensboro Bridge with the same, highly surreal coloring of the sky, as if the city were under siege or an attack by a mysterious enemy. In reality, just like our orange skies from nearly three years ago, the enemy *is* known, and emanates from climate change and the chaotic weather patterns that make fires such as these, as well as other forms of extreme and previously unusual weather, sadly much more frequent.

Moving to the first medal in our upload, we have a similar scene, with a perspective view of a bridge under attack...



In this instance, it is London and her bridge under attack by the German war machine and a relatively new form of warfare—the zeppelin airship. The Graf von Zeppelin's eponymous ship was early in its use by the time of the war's outbreak, and its usage by Germany, *though limited*, was another indication that warfare in the 20th century would be dramatically different than that of previous centuries.



If these topics weren't weighty enough for you, imagine being Atlas here, with the weight of the world on his back...



This 18th century French medal was issued to commemorate the installation of Philippe II, the Duke of Orléans, as the Regent of France upon the accession of his great-nephew, the boy-king Louis XV. Here, Atlas bearing the celestial sphere is meant to convey the weighty role in which Philippe had found himself in 1715.

Moving away from such weighty affairs is this gilt bronze medal featuring a dog...five in fact. This was issued in 1901 for the 2nd International Dog Exposition held in Basel, Switzerland. While displaying five different hounds is interesting on its own, it also features a basilisk on the other side—the mythical creature being synonymous with the city...



Staying within Switzerland, here's an extremely mirrored and prooflike silver medal from 1886 celebrating the 500th anniversary of a decisive victory over the Austrian Habsburgs by the fledgling band of cantons of the Old Swiss Confederacy. This medal displays the elegant artistry and expert-level manufacture that is commonly encountered with contemporaneous Swiss issues, like the popular series of shooting festival medals...



Along the lines of elegant and popular, here is a stunning and rare medal issued to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, most famous for his patenting of dynamite and creation (and funding) of the Nobel Institute and their awards...



Designed by Erik Lindberg, whose works display the Art Nouveau and Neoclassical flairs which he learned while studying in Paris at the end of the 19th century, this silver medal parallels the Nobel Prize medals as well as the Nobel nominating committee medals, both of which were also designed by Lindberg and feature similar busts of the famous inventor and philanthropist. What sets this piece apart from the increasingly more valuable nominating committee medals, however, is not only the size (45mm vs. 26mm), but also the rarity. Just 150 of these medals were produced in 1926, while the smaller nominating committee medals continue to be produced, *and awarded*, to the this very day.

For all of this upload's items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art below, and also be sure to check out our [On Sale!](#) items for previously listed medals now at lower prices. A number of additions have been made since last time, so we encourage you to take a look. We will be back in early July, *just before the Fourth*, with an Americana-themed upload of tokens and medals.



Lastly, some sad news, as we recently received word that one of the longstanding resident feral cats (*one in a colony of many at the complex in which we used to live, and for which had the pleasure to assist in feeding for a few years*) abruptly stopped being present for feedings around the beginning of the month. We don't really know what may have happened, but Sawyer has always served as an ambassador, sitting proudly throughout the grounds and being a very gentle soul to all who passed by, like so many there that we have so sadly lost rather recently to old age. He and his fellow colony friends will be continue to be remembered by us always.



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